

CLAIMS

1. A processing status enquiry method of inquiring a status of processing executed by another computer, comprising the steps of:

5 sending a processing which a first computer requests a second computer to perform and a first identifier of the processing to the second computer; and

10 sending the first identifier to the second computer when the first computer inquires the second computer of a status of the processing requested.

2. A processing status enquiry method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of generating by the first computer a first identifier and storing by
15 the first computer the first identifier on a hard disk connected to the first computer.

3. A processing status enquiry method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first identifier and said processing includes information
20 unique to said first computer.

4. A processing status enquiry method according to claim 3, wherein said unique information is an internet protocol (IP) address of the first computer.

5. A processing status enquiry method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
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generating by the second computer a second identifier corresponding to a processing request received from the first computer and sending the second

identifier to the first computer; and

inquiring, by the first computer, the second computer of a status of said processing using at least one of the first and second identifiers.

5 6. A processing status enquiry method according to claim 1, wherein when the first computer requests the second computer to perform the processing, it is possible, even without any enquiry from the first computer, to specify information regarding a status of
10 the processing for which the second computer notifies the status of the processing.

7. A processing status enquiry method according to claim 1, wherein when the first computer requests the second computer to perform the processing, it is
15 possible to specify information regarding a notification destination to which the second computer notifies a status of the processing.

8. A processing status enquiry system for
inquiring a status of processing executed by another
20 computer, comprising:

a first computer for sending a processing which the first computer requests a second computer to perform and a first identifier corresponding to said processing, to the second computer; and

25 a second computer notifying, in response to an status inquiry of the processing which is received from the first computer and which includes the first identifier, a status of the processing to the first

computer.

9. A processing status enquiry client computer for inquiring a status of processing performed by a server computer, comprising:

5 an identifier generating section for generating a first identifier corresponding to a processing for which an enquiry is issued to the server computer; and

an enquiry section for sending, upon
10 inquiring the server computer of a status of the processing, the first identifier to the server computer.

10. A processing status enquiry client computer according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the first
15 identifier and said processing includes information unique to said client.

11. A processing status enquiry client computer according to claim 10, wherein said unique information is an IP address of said client computer.

20 12. A sever computer responsive to a processing status enquiry from a client computer, comprising:

a receiving section receiving a first identifier corresponding to a processing which is requested from the client computer;

25 an information acquiring section acquiring, in response to a status enquiry for the processing which is received from the client computer and which includes the first identifier, information regarding a

status of said processing corresponding to the first identifier; and

a transmitting section sending the information to the client computer.

- 5 13. A server computer responsive to a processing status enquiry according to claim 12, further comprising:

an identifier generating section for generating a second identifier corresponding to said
10 processing; and

a transmitting section for sending the second identifier to the client computer.

14. A server computer responsive to a processing status enquiry according to claim 13, wherein:

15 said receiving section receives at least one of the first and second identifiers;

said information acquiring section acquires information regarding a state of processing corresponding to said identifier; and

20 said transmitting section sends said information to the client computer.

15. A server computer responsive to a processing status enquiry according to claim 12, further comprising a transmitting section for sending the
25 status of the processing to the client computer if the status has been changed.

16. A server computer responsive to a processing status enquiry according to claim 12, further

comprising storage means for storing, if the status has been changed, a client computer to which the status of the processing is to be transmitted.

17. A server computer responsive to a processing
5 status enquiry according to claim 12, wherein said server computer is an order receiving computer in an electronic commerce system.

18. A recording medium storing thereon a
computer-readable program for implementing the method
10 according to claims 1 to 7.